

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 01161 281856Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 L-03 EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00  
AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 NSCE-00 /052 W  
-----014840 281912Z /50  
O 281740Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7908

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1161

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT: DELAY OF AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE TITLE III PL 480 PROGRAM

1. I WISH TO REGISTER MY STRONG CONCERN THAT WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE TITLE III PROPOSAL WITH THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS NOW FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO WASHINGTON. THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY ARA, EB, AID, AGRICULTURE, TREASURY AND OMB. DESPITE THIS BROAD SUPPORT, I UNDERSTAND THERE IS TO BE A FURTHER DELAY WHILE THE CONGRESS IS SOUNDED OUT.

2. THE TITLE III PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ELICIT MAJOR NEW COMMITMENTS BY THE GOH WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO THE FIRST REALLY SERIOUS HAITIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORT -- IN THE SENSE OF GROWTH WITH EQUITY -- SINCE THE REPUBLIC WAS FOUNDED IN 1804. IF THE GOH IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE THE COMMITMENTS, THERE WILL BE NO TITLE III PROGRAM, AND, I MIGHT ADD, HAITI'S DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS WILL BE VERY GLOOMY INDEED. WITH A COMBINATION OF THOSE COMMITMENTS AND THE TITLE III RESOURCES, I BELIEVE THAT THIS COUNTRY, WHICH MANY REGARD AS A BASKET CASE, STANDS A CHANCE.

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3. I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT DELAY OF THE APPROVAL NOW PROBABLY MEANS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMMENCE THE TITLE III PROGRAM UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF FY 79. THE MOST WE CAN PROBABLY HOPE FOR IS A MUCH SMALLER TITLE I PROGRAM THIS YEAR, BUT LEST WE GIVE AWAY LEVERAGE ON THE TITLE III REFORMS, WE WISH TO AWAIT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE TITLE III PROPOSAL BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH

A TITLE I PROGRAM.

4. THAT THERE HAS BEEN STEADY IF SLOW PROCESS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS UNDERSCORED BY THE CONVICTIONS LAST WEEK OF LIEUTENANT REMY AND THE ASSAILANTS OF PASTOR NEREE (SEE PORT-AU-PRINCE 1114). BUT THE BASIC POINT IS THAT IN HAITI, WHERE PERHAPS 90 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN \$100 PER CAPITA/PER YEAR, WHERE THE ILLITERACY RATE APPROACHES 90 PERCENT AND WHERE MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE ARE RIFE, WE MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO HUMAN NEEDS -- AT LEAST SO LONG AS THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY MOVING AWAY FROM THE ABUSES OF THE PREDECESSOR REGIME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT EVEN THE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF HAITI'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE WOULD SHARE THIS VIEW IF THEY LIVED FOR JUST A FEW WEEKS WITH HAITI'S CRUSHING POVERTY.

5. I AM CONVINCED THAT REAL PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS HERE ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, ON A BETTER EDUCATED AND FED CITIZENRY THAT BELIEVES THAT CHANGE IS BOTH POSSIBLE AND SUBJECT TO INFLUENCE BY THE PEOPLE. IN THE LONG RUN, THERE IS PROBABLY NO MORE IMPORTANT STEP THE US CAN TAKE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI THAN THE TITLE III PROGRAM. IT WILL ONLY WORK IF THE GOH IS PREPARED TO TRY. WHAT WE SEEK IS THE MEANS BOTH TO ELICIT THAT TRY AND, IF THE GOH DECIDES IN FAVOR OF IT, TO ENHANCE THE CHANCES THAT REAL DEVELOPMENT WILL HAPPEN.

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6. OUR USAID DIRECTOR AND I ARE PREPARED TO COME TO WASHINGTON ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE IF IT WILL HELP EXPEDITE A FINAL DECISION.  
JONES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, PL 480 TITLE 3, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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